1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	with linked fingers, Haibargaon-Mairabari and Senchoa-Silghat Town						Senchoa-Silghat March, 08 balance March , 09	Haibargaon to Mairabari and Senchoa - Silghat where works are in different stages
4	Kathakal-Bhairabi	1997-98	84	88.70	10 01	5 98	March, 10	Earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up The conversion will be done alongwith Lumding-Silchar project
5.	New Jalpaiguri New Bongaigaon with branch lines	1997-98	419	892 83	824 15	31	Main line and Alipurduar-Bamanhat completed. Fakiragram Dhubri Dec. 2009-10.	All work completed except Fakiragram-Dhubri which is targeted for 2009-10

Future trading

†*234. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to ban the future trading of food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received memorandum, etc. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government alongwith the details of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) The Government received some representations suggesting taking out food items/essential commodities from the list of commodities permitted for forward trading on the ground that futures trading was leading to price rise in these commodities. The Government also had before it the Report of the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution regarding forward trading in commodities. In this context, the Government decided to appoint an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen to go into the aspects of forward trading on prices of essential commodities, which may adversely impact the consumer. Earlier as a measure of abundant precaution, Forward Markets Commission (FMC) *vide* letter dated 23.10.2007 directed the three National Exchanges, namely (i) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (ii) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchanges Ltd., (iii) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. to delist all contracts c f tur and urad and to close out all outstanding

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

positions in all tur and urad contracts at the closing price on 23.10.2007. FMC also directed the Exchanges not to launch new contract in these commodities without its prior approval, and permission already granted by FMC to launch contracts in urad and tur were withdrawn.

Similarly, FMC had on 27.02.2007 directed all the three National Exchanges not to launch any new wheat and rice contracts. In the letter to the Exchanges, FMC directed that permission already granted for yet to be launched contracts stands revoked and that in respect of running contracts in these commodities no new position should be allowed to be taken. Only squaring up of positions would be allowed.

Drought situation in Bundelkhand region

†*235. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought situation has emerged due to absence of rainfall in several districts of Bundelkhand region in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government is introducing a scheme of water supply there for the purpose of drinking water and agricultural work; and

(c) whether Government is considering to provide any financial package to State Government by taking emergency measures keeping in view the migration of people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) As reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), during South-West Monsoon 2007 (1.6.2007 to 30.9.2007), Madhya Pradesh received 819.1 mm of rainfall against normal average rainfall of 989 mm, with a deviation of -17%. According to the IMD, out of 45 meteorological districts in the State, 6 received excess rainfall (+20% or more), 15 received normal rainfall (+19% to -19%), 22 received deficient rainfall (-20% to-59%) and 2 received scanty rainfall (-60% to -99%).

2. This year, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has declared drought in 157 tehsils of 37 districts in the State, including some areas in the Bundelkhand region. According to State Government, 21 districts are completely affected and 16 districts are partialy affected.

3. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State with financial and logistic support. The State Government takes necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities with the funds available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), in accordance with the laid down items and norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). In case the fund available in the CRF is insufficient, the State Government is required to submit a memorandum for grant of assistance from the NCCF, which is considered in accordance with a laid down procedure. The State Government is reported to be taking necessary measures to tackle the drought situation, which include arrangements to supply drinking water in the affected rural and urban areas.

4. The State Government has submitted a memorandum for assistance of Rs. 1548.91 crores from the NCCF in the wake of current drought. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 18th to 21st February, 2008, for an on-the-spot assessment of the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.